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SKYWATCH

MAPIT SKYWATCH

SKYWATCH-SKYWATCH

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from them, were sent to the Editorial Address.....

READERS' LETTERS

.....

Dear David,

"Skywatch" is fascinating. I've always been interested in UFO's (who isn't)? Someday maybe I shall have an experience to relate to you. I incline to the theory that all occult phenomena are connected, but that (as do all other theories) still leaves many questions unanswered. Blessed be, Magda (Editor-Ragnarok), Blackburn, Lancs.....

Dear David,

Sorry, I'm trying to keep the newsletters domestic, to keep down the cost and trouble, but best of luck with your 'zine. Jim Moseley, Fort Lee, New Jersey, USA.....

Dear David,

(Ref BUFORA Conference - Ed). "However the full programme will not be finalised for several weeks yet". "What is certain that it will be in the two conference suites of the Mount Royal Hotel, Marble Arch: That it will be a two-day event (August Bank Holiday Sunday/Monday): That Dr. Allen Hynek should be the main guest speaker and that Contact UK are joining us as co-hosts to the conference". All best wishes, Normal Oliver, Editor-BUFORA Journal, London.....

Dear David,

We thank you for the interesting review "Skywatch" which you sent us. We hope to translate from SW into our own review 'X Selezione UFO' which will emerge bi-monthly soon. With sincere greetings, Piero Mantero, CIRS-UFO Genova, Italy.....

Dear Mr. Rees,

As to your question on my interest in UFO's, I am a private researcher (being consultant for MUFON-USA). The UFO problem is being studied in the USSR by the Academy of Sciences and some institutions, but the information is hidden and UFO publications are very sporadic. With my best regards, V I Sanarov, Novosibirsk, U S S R.....

Dear David,

For your information I am a co-ordinator for this group, and I am also the Australian Consultant on matters pertaining to UFO/Car related effect I hold a key position in UFO Research in this country and I have extensive overseas contacts. I control to a certain degree the type of format undertaken in investigative matters and I assist in promotion of the UFO phenomena in Australia through TV Radio and newspapers. We operate our own computer here in NSW onto which go all Australian cases for correlation as is being done at CUFOS. in America. Your sincerely, David Reneke, UFO Research, Bidewell, NSW, Australia.....

I WANT TO SEE A UFO!

.....

I want to see a UFO! A real close encounter, not just lights in the sky, which is my sole achievement to date. I've read dozens of books on the subject, discussed it with everyone who is interested (and most people are). So, if anyone out there is listening, please drop in sometime. There's a field next to my house which would make a perfect landing-site.

And what will it be, this UFO that will someday come calling? A spaceship from another planet? From inside the Earth? From the Fourth Dimension? Even more important, who are its occupants? The need to believe in a superior being, a celestial guardian, has always been one of the strongest influences in the mind of Man. It is tempting to think of these UFO-nauts as replacing the now discredited image of the white-bearded old man sitting on a cloud. But there is another side to that coin, and 1984 is only half a decade away.

If they are the 'Sons of God', what have they done to help us, beyond uttering vague warnings about nuclear war and pollution, dangers of which we are already aware and about which we can do practically nothing. If they have offered any solutions to the problems, they have not communicated them to the right person and very few of the people they have selected have been psychologically or otherwise equipped to receive their message. Inept is a fitting word for some of their communications. There are other words, such as baffling, contradictory, infuriating. The debate rages.

Leaving aside the imponderable, 'what are they trying to do?', let us consider what they have done. They've got Terrestrial Man metaphorically tearing his hair in bewilderment and exasperation. Puzzling, investigating, studying, thinking. Maybe that is what they are trying to do. To get Man to THINK. To reactivate all of his atrophied brain, instead of mudding along with the tiny percentage of cells he at present uses. When that happens, Man can say to the Gods, thanks for the helping hand, but I'M grown up now, I can stand on my own feet.

The trouble is, the only way we can discover the secret of the UFOs is by personal contact. Any, when that happens, no-one is going to believe us.

Magdalene Graham (Ragnarok).

NEW UFO PUBLICATION MAKES AN APPEARANCE

The latest and welcome 'newcomer' to the UFO publication's scene is the Fereration of UFO Research (RUFOR) magazine entitled "UFO INSIGHT". The 1st issue came out in November last year, and I must congratulate the editor - Makr Tyrrell on a first class job! The first issue ran for twenty pages and included were some good articles by well-known 'UFOlogists': Jenny Randles (NUFON/UFOIN), Anthony Pace (BUFORA), Andy Collins (UFOIN). The item I found of particular interest was written by David Sydeserff of SMIO in Scotland entitled "The Political Awareness of the Situation". What David tried to do was to gain the official attitudes of various Political parties, on subjects such as UFO's and related. His feedback from the parties makes interesting reading. So FUFOR have got over the hard part: the first issue. Mark tells me the next issue will be out "around the end of February - or early March". I would certainly give this publication your support. The subscription is: £1.25p or 25p single issue. Write for further details to: Editor: Mark Tyrrell, 24 Cavendish Road, Crewe, Cheshire, CW2 8SW.....

SKYWATCH UFO DETECTORS

Malcolm Jay has been involved in UFO Detector work for many years and recently he has designed and built one of the most portable models ever made available in the World. Malcom kindly sent me one and I must say I am very impressed by the end product. It is very well built and ideal to take around with you anywhere. In the past, Detectors have been big and clumsy, but this latest development changes all that. Many researchers are wary of any instrument which enables you to see a UFO; the Detector does not attract UFOs; if a UFO is in the area and you have your Detector on, the chances are that it will sound its audio alarm, thus giving you the chance of seeing a UFO. For further details of this remarkable device see the advertisement featured further on in this issue of SKYWATCH, I would like to hear from overseas readers concerning Detectors in their countries.

DAVID L REES.

National Enquirer - 6th December 1977

RECENTLY DECLASSIFIED AIR FORCE FILES REVEAL - 3-MONTH UFO SIEGE AT TOP SECRET ATOM PLANT

UFO's spied on America's most secret atomic research plant for more than three months back in 1950-51, evading all attempts by US fighter planes to intercept them, according to recently declassified Air Force files. The once-sealed files of Project Blue Book, the Air Force's official investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects, reveal that the UFO's were sighted repeatedly at the Atomic Energy Commission's super-secret atomic installation at Oak Ridge, Tenn., between October 1950 and January 1951. Air Force radar screens also picked up the eerie objects. And on one occasion, as a flight of UFO's darted overhead, radioactivity in the area soared, although no radioactive material had been released at the plant.

The mysterious wave of UFO sightings began on the 12th October 1950, when 11 objects, possibly more, appeared on the radar scope of an Air Force unit at nearby McGhee-Tyson Airport. A fighter plane was scrambled to intercept the UFO's but the pilot radioed back he couldn't see them, either visually or on his airborne radar, even though they were still clearly visible on ground radar. Three days later, one of the strangest sightings in the history of UFO reports was made by an AEC guard. He and an attendant said they saw a bullet-shaped object descent from the sky, then miraculously it assumed the shape of a 'two-by-five grayish coloured card' according to Project Blue book files. 'Attached to the object was a ribbon-like tail about 20 feet long and an inch wide', the files say. The object was moving slowly, about 3 miles per hour, it was estimated. When he approached to within 50 feet of the weird object, it speeded up slightly and flew over a nine-foot fence. Then it rose sharply again to clear a 30 foot tree, changed to a pear-shape, and vanished over a ridge.

The astounding flutter of sightings over the Oak Ridge AEC plant continued, e.g. 5th November at 11.55 a.m. an employee of Fairchild Enging and Airplane Corp., which had a plant at Oak Ridge, saw a huge gray object which changed shape rapidly, six miles away. Astounded officials calculated the object must have been as tall as a three-story building and a half-block long! 29th November - at 5.15 p.m. 3 UFO's popped up on radar scopes moving at only six-miles-an-hour. For more than 2 hours they were observed on radar, but an F-82 fighter plane failed to locate them.

Finally, Air Force Intelligence experts from Wright-Patterson Air Force base flew in to investigate. They reported 'no malfunctions in the Radar equipment or operational errors on the part of the radar crews.

Credit - BRYAN HARTLEY.

WHAT HAPPENED IN SIBERIA?

by SKYSCAN member Tony Green

At 7.17 a.m. local time on June 30th, 1908, something frightful occurred in the Tungus area of Central Siberia. A catastrophic mid-air explosion took place. Virtually all trees within a 20 mile radius were blown down. As recently as 1960, the effects on the surrounding area were still prominent.

Area residents at the time reported that just before the blast took place they spotted a 'fire-ball' crossing the sky, so bright 'it made even the light from the sun seem dark'. 250 miles away, a pillar of fire was seen, followed by three or four claps and a crashing sound. At a distance of 400 miles, horses were thrown to the ground and people were burnt. Metal objects in peoples homes were melted. For two nights after the explosion, London inhabitants were able to read by strange lights emanating from the sky.

What caused this tremendous, unequalled explosion? Many theories have been forwarded and rejected. One of the most common is that a meteorite entered the Earth's atmosphere, and instead of exploding on impact, because of the tremendous heat it generated, it caused itself to explode 25 miles above the Earth's surface. For various reasons, this theory has been rejected, although many scientists still stand by it. The most startling theory about the devastation in Siberia is that it was caused by a damaged 'flying saucer' from outer space, disintegrating in a nuclear explosion.

In the first place they say, the Earth's magnetic field was disturbed at the time of the explosion, as it would have been by a nuclear blast. Secondly, the pattern of destruction in the shattered forest is more consistent with the shock waves produced by an atomic bomb than with those of a conventional explosion.

Other clues were the extreme intensity of light at the time, and the later discovery of numerous tiny green globules of melted dust, called trinitites, which are characteristic of an atomic blast. According to Prof. Alexei Zolotov, the globules contained elements which are unnatural to the area and are not found in meteorites. Exponents of the theory believe that the elements come from the spaceship's hull or fuel tank.

Plant mutations in the area after the explosion were similar to those at Hiroshima in Japan after the atomic bomb was dropped there in 1945.

From all the evidence, two Australian journalists, John Baxter and Thomas Aitkins drew a remarkable picture of events in Siberia in 1908, and published their views in a book called 'The Fire Came By'.

This is the science fiction picture they drew:

On June 30th, 1908, an extraterrestrial flying object dived towards the earth from space to attempt a landing. Because of an accident aboard, its situation was critical. Having succeeded in entering the atmosphere, it flew in a wide arc and began its manoeuvres for touchdown. But it was too late.

Two miles above Siberia, the atomic fuel which powered it became heated to a point above the critical threshold and set off a nuclear explosion of about 30 megatons-equivalent to 30 millions tons of TNT. This turned 25 miles of the earth's surface to molten rock, and burned people as far away as 400 miles from the centre of the explosion.

What sort of people were in the crippled spaceship? Where could they have come from? What could they have looked like? These are other mysteries locked in the debris of the Tungus.

NEWS AROUND THE WORLD

UFO STOPS BY THE PARK: New York Post Nov. 2nd 1978. Central Park is one of New York's biggest tourist attractions. - so why shouldn't some visiting Martians want to take a look? Some 50 people, many of them workers in the Gulf and Western building on Columbus Circle reported seeing a silvery circular reflecting object hovering over the southern end of the park at twilight. It didn't stay long, however, and it's not clear what it was.

SUNSET UFO: Natal Mercury Nov 23rd 1978 (South Africa). Lisbon - Portuguese newspapers yesterday published photographs of what they called a mysterious Unidentified Flying Object, which appeared over Lisbon at sunset. Hundreds of people telephoned newspapers and Radio Stations with reports of an orange cigar-shaped luminous object visible for about five minutes.

(Credit: UFO NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE - Lucius Farish/USA)

AT LEAST ONE UFO SCARS OVER ITALY: On the 15 Sept. 1978, at least one UFO flew over many parts of Italy and Sicily before dawn, according to many eye-witnesses. It was spotted in Sicily, Rome, Tuscany and Sardinia and looked to be triangular or torpedo-shaped and in one report appeared to change colour

and size. In Rome, two employees of the national airline 'Atitalia', got out of their car on the way to work to watch the object's passage. In Torre Del Lago, Tuscany, North of Rome, people saw a bright torpedo-shaped object arrive from the South (the direction of Rome) and fly around a lake at an altitude of some 500 metres before departing, leaving a blue-white trail. At around the same time, businessmen Giorgio Micheli of Nuoro, Sardinia saw a Flying Saucer hover near to him and then disappear to the North East.

Credit: Earth Colonisation Report, Oct Vol 3 No 5 1978 - New Zealand).

UFO CRASHES IN MADAGASCAR: Evening Press August 21st 1978. An Unidentified Flying Object crashed and exploded in the market place of Fort Dauphin on Friday night, the Madagascar Interior Ministry said yesterday.

Credit: Steven Gilbourne - Eire)

STIRRING NEWS OF SAUCERS: Manchester Evening News Jan 8th 1979. Britain is in the middle of a flying saucer boom. The UFO spotting agency, Contact International claims there has been an "unprecedented" number of reported sightings. Contact's President, Ruth Rees says: "our data research man has received 185 calls in 36 hours". About 60 were attributed to a meteorite, but other reports told of lights going in various directions. The sighting that caused the most interest was by a policeman in Northants. Miss Rees said: "He told us about 200 people watched an enormous silver cylinder in the sky. It seemed to be sending searchlight beams up into space and down to the ground".

Credit: David L Rees).

Many of you will be aware of the New Zealand UFO Film taken in January this year. Well, here is a similar case from Britain - Editor.

THE KRANKIES WERE BUZZED BY A FLYING SAUCER: The Sunday Post Jan 7th 1979. Scot Ian and Janette Tough, alias The Krankies (They are a very good Comedy Duo) were a hit on the BBC's New Year TV show. But what viewers didn't know was that they had a strange encounter on the way to Glasgow. Ian and Janette are appearing in Pantomime at Darlington. The blizzard blocked roads and the trains were off. So the BBC chartered a five-seat plane to bring them from Newcastle to Glasgow. On the way, the plane's instruments went wonky; the pilot blamed the snow. Then they heard a strange buzzing noise. Weird blue and red lights appeared ahead of them. Next second the noise grew louder and the lights were right above them. Ian and Janette saw a long oval-shape, brilliant white, hovering over their plane. Yes, it was a UFO - and it was buzzing them, just like the one that followed a plane in New Zealand. The pilot had never seen anything like it before; for about 5 minutes the UFO shadowed the plane. Then suddenly it zoomed off in a flash of blue and red. Ian and Janette were flabbergasted!

Credit: Allan Farrell).

DANGER! HIDDEN UFO's: Daily Express 19th Jan 1979. Peers uncovered a new scandal last night: there has been a major cover-up of UFO's. It is time the people of Britain were told the truth, claimed the Chairman of an international UFO Movement. While the Commons heard a ding-dong row about strikes chaos, throughout the country, the Lords stuck to their agenda - and that was a debate on visitors from space. Two Bishops were among the 60 Peers who heard the Earl of Clancarty of the Contact Movement, hit out at Government apathy. "Suppose the UFO nauts decided to make mass landings tomorrow, he said, "There could well be a panic here because our people have not been prepared". There were more and more UFO's, he said, and the Defence Ministry should tell us what they know. There should be a special study set-up, too. The Earl of Kimberley joined in and declared that "War in Space" was known to be "nearly a fact". All their lordships' worries were scoffed at by Lord Strabolgi, for the Government. We are simply not convinced, he said coldly.

Credit: David L Rees).

MAPIT NEWSDESK

Welcome to this, the first issue of 1979; I would like to thank everyone who sent me Christmas/New Year Cards - they were most appreciated by all at MAPIT and SKYWATCH. My thanks to: Ken Stanley, Mr & Mrs. Rose, Linda Thompson, John Barklam, Don Goring, Jack Allen, Barry Lawton, Jeff Thomas, Bryan Hartley, Lionel Beer, Dean Preston, Gloria and John Saville, David Kay and Fernando Corda of Spain. Also thanks to the Editor of the French UFO/Fortean magazine 'Kruptos' - Herve Lardnde, for his interesting telephone call on New Year's morning from Lyon.

BUFORA are to stage a London Conference this year. It is hoped it will include many overseas researchers. Lionel Beer informs me that "arrangements for our London International Conference, at Mount Royal Hotel, Marble Arch, London W1, are going well. Dr. Allen Hynek has provisionally agreed to come as a guest speaker; expected audience will be approaching 500 people and this will be a unique event in UK UFO Annals." Indeed it will, and we all await further details of this event in the coming weeks.

Arthur Shuttlewood of "The Warminster Mystery" fame, has three books in various stages of preparation: UFO's in Motion (Sphere - to be published in 1979) and also Wheels of Heaven and A Rainbow of UFO's.

This issue of Skywatch welcomes many new members, and in fact 1978 aproved to be the best year yet for new members joining us. May I remind all members and for that matter readers of Skywatch, that we rely our very existence on YOUR support; if you wish to comment on any aspect of UFO's MAPIT/SKYWATCH or anything connected with UFO's, please write to me and tell us all about it. Also, as Newsclipping agencies fees are too high, we rely on all members to donate any paper clippings they see concerning UFO. They, of course, will be featured in SW (if space is available) and put onto our clipping file for future reference. If you do send any clippings, remember to include: name of newspaper, date and year.

To the end of last year MAPIT has some posters printed by a professional printer. These measure 15' x 10' and have black lettering on a yellow background. Should you be able to use one of these: e.g. Local Library, shops, post offices, work, etc. please send a 9p stamp to the Editorial Address.

Remember we also have a very large information service; requests should include a stamped-addressed envelope.

Lindy Whitehurst of Dallas, Texas, USA, informs me there is a major thoroughfare called "Hillcrest Road", in Dallas USA. Nice to know Offerton has something similar to Texas - though no oil wells!

As you will see from this issue of Skywatch, UFO's are seen all over the world. They are not restricted to North and South America, as some people think. Example this issue, sightings from: Greece, Cyprus, Jersey, South Africa, North America, Italy, Madagascar and, of course, Britain.....

Your Secretary and Editor (David Rees) was interviewed by Piccadilly Radio in Manchester on the 25th January between 6.30 and 7.00 p.m. First the Earl of Clancarty was heard in the House of Lords and then interviewed. David Rees was interviewed for about 15 minutes and, at the end, MAPIT'S phone number was given for interested persons to contact - which I'm glad to say they did. The response was very good indeed.

Had a letter from Skywatch reader, Milosz Woznaik; he asks for the following: Wanted: Occult and Health books in exchange for lasting Polish Folk Arts, like wooden plates, pieces of tapestry, hand-woven pillow cases. You can contact Milosz at: Poste Restante 34, 70-474 Szczecin, Poland.

MAPIT overseas correspondent Omiros Karajas would like it know that at Thessaloniki in Greece, there is an Aerial Phenomena Investigation Team. Its name is: "Unidentified Phenomena Investigation Team" (U.P.I.T.) To contact write to: Omiros Harajas, Olympou Street 108, Thessaloniki, Greece.

Finally, in Newsdesk, I would like to mention about two forthcoming dates open for members to visit Head Office in Offerton. The dates are: April 8th and April 15th, Both Sundays. Time to visit: after 2.00 p.m. onwards to teatime. approximately 5.00 p.m. All members wishing to attend one of these informal "get togethers", should write to me at H.O. stating which date is preferred. Then I can sort out the people so that hopefully we can spread the numbers over the two Sundays in question. As many of you know, we do not hold 'formal' gatherings, as we've found in the past that you can be restricted. Needless to say, any member is welcome anytime, as long as he contacts me first.

That's all for now - so until next time - bye!

DAVID REES.....

THE RAFFERTY SIGHTING OF NOVEMBER 4 1977

This report was discovered during an appointment with Dr.A.J.Rostron at the Ross High Secondary School, in Tranent, on December 21 1977. Details were obtained during a brief meeting with Brian Rafferty (aged 15) and a further interview with his brother Owen (aged 19) that evening. The following is derived from the SMIO report of December 30 1977.

Brothers Owen and Brian Rafferty, of Tranent, were driving home from Asda Superstore in Edinburgh on the evening of Friday, November 4 1977; Owen was at the wheel. The road, in particular while passing Dolphinstone Farm was very quiet and this is unusual, especially for a Friday evening. They drove at 40 mph.

The night was damp and chilly, with a clear view of the shore light of Fife (thus visibility about 20 miles or so). The stars were visible above and there was a crescent moon. The road surface was damp but not dangerously so. Darkness fell at approximately 1700 hrs.

Just past the farm buildings, the car's headlights picked up an object at an elevation of 70 degrees, 22 feet directly away. It was almost above them, moving north to south. The sighting took a maximum of four seconds, and then they passed each other. Owen immediately took note of the time from the car facia clock, having heard and read of similar experiences - it was 2011 hrs. GMT. They did not stop, there was no effect on the car, nor was the object visible on looking back.

Only the object's base was seen and this was oval in shape, 10-15 feet in diameter and a metallic grey-silver colour. No light was emitted or visible though they could not see the top there may have been some light there, but this is unlikely for they would have noticed it on approaching. It was definitely in motion, north to south, at a speed of perhaps 15mph. It may also have been revolving but this is uncertain. Angular dimensions were uncalculated.

The Rafferty brothers are definite of what they saw and positive it was not a natural phenomena. I am convinced this is not a hoax. Occupants of Dolphinstone Farm knew nothing of the incident as both myself and Dr.Rostron discovered on separate occasions.

The only theory viable would be a cloud which had come down low but this is unlikely as the object showed a definite shape and its motion was not consistent with prevailing winds in this country.

Therefore this case can only be labelled as a valid UFO.

DAVID SYDESERFF, SMIO.

POSSIBLE LANDING AT ST.OVEN IN JERSEY

The UFO experience took place 20 years ago (1957), when Mrs.Chilvers and her family were working in a field in St.Oven. All of a sudden they saw a large orange glowing object. It seemed to come down low, whistling and spinning before disappearing over a large hedge. We, the group (UFOJA) were unable to locate where the UFO disappeared because of the age of the frightening experience. The witnesses were so scared they didn't dare look behind the large hedge.

(Credit: Major UFO sightings from over Jersey - special report compiled for MAPIT/SKYWATCH by Dean Preston and Arno Chilvers).

TWO SIGHTINGS FROM CYRRUS AND GREECE

Thanks go out to our Greek Overseas Correspondent, for bringing these two interesting cases to our attention, Omiros Karajas).

Case One:

Location: Paphos, Cyprus.

Year: 1925 or 26.

Witnesses: Two witnesses, one male, one female, names given to the Athenian Team of UFO Research, Spiros Vrettos and not known by myself.

The female witness had gone with her father to their pasture a few km out of Paphos. There they saw a black-coloured disc-shaped object hanging in the sky, motionless. Both witnesses agreed it had its own source of light and in no way reflected the sun's rays, also it made no noise. The father stated that he had seen the object many times in the past at the same location and position. He further stated that the object used to accelerate away and vanish into the distance at great speed. On the day in question the two witnesses described the day as being dark with no clouds around. They did not stay long and the object was still in the sky when they left. They both had no idea what the object could have been.

Case Two:

Date: Monday 7th January

Year: 1976,

Time: 10.00/10.30 a.m.

Location: New Halkidona - Greece.

Witness: Dimosthenis Louckidellis.

On the day in question the witness entered his room which faces to the South, some of the windows in the room were open and as he was opening another of his windows he observed a very curious cloud. He saw this "cloud" make some strange movements three or four times. He described to the investigator, John Mickedakis, "that the cloud was moving like a falling leaf". Another strange point is that the "cloud" disappeared. The witness supports this view emphatically.

SKYQUEST CASSETTE SERIES

Over the years many people have said to me "where can I get hold of UFO tapes?" Well, until recently they have not been easy to come by. MAPIT has a modest tape library, which members are welcome to listen to. Famous names in this collection include: Daniel Fry, George Van Tassel, George Adamski, Bryant Reeve, Erich Von Daniken, Frank Stranges, Betty Hill, Ray Stanford, Allen Hynek, Charles Bowel and so on. Well, a welcome addition to this collection is Norman Oliverly, respected Editor of BUFORA Journal. Norman runs a special service for UFO interested persons called "Skyquest". All together, ten different titles are available featuring: The Winchester Encounters; The Scoriton Contact; AVB and After; The South Wales Flap, and many others. All include recorded witness excerpts and are essential research material.

The Cassette MAPIT has is entitled "The Wildman Case and the Banbury Flap". The first concerns the case of Mr. Ronald Wildman and vehicle interference via a UFO and is an early Close Encounter, two cases having occurred on February 9th, 1962. The actual UFO was only 20 feet away from the witness - very good and well put together. The Banbury Flap concerned the many sightings over this area near Warminster in 1971 and features the famous "ATV Camera Crew Film Case which is still much discussed by UFO researchers everywhere in Britain. I must congratulate Norman with this tape, it is well-presented and if this is the standard set for the whole series of ten, then I highly recommend them to you. All his cassettes are C60's and playing time varies between 52 and 59 minutes. Each tape costs £2.80p including p & p.

For a full list please write to: Skyquest, 95 Taunton Road, London SE12 8PA, England.

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NORTHERN UFO NEWS AND NORTHERN UFOLOGY: Publication of the Northern UFO Network. Write to Miss Jenny Randles, 23 Sunningdale Avenue, Irlam, Greater Manchester, M30 6NJ.....

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SKYWATCH UFO DETECTORS

One of the few facts that has been realised about UFOs and their activities, is that they cause an electromagnetic effect on electronic and magnetic equipment. The reason for this is not really known; magnetic compasses spin wildly, TVs ghost, and radios emit hums and crackles. It has also been known for the UFOs E.M. field to cause switching relays to react in power stations and cause widespread blackouts. For the Ufologist to stay out in the open searching the sky for 24 hours a day is not practical. So a device that could detect UFOs presence would be a vital piece of equipment for the serious UFO researcher.

Over the years that I have been producing 'Skywatch UFO Detectors' (SKUFOD) I have had many requests and enquiries about the possibility of a pocket-size UFO detector. I have in the past built such detectors but have not been practical or very successful.

Now, thanks to modern electronics, I have produced such a detector that satisfactorily fits the requirement of the Ufologist. This detector can be carried in your pocket, handbag, even used in your car, on public transport, and at night, left by your bedside. Of course, if you carry it in your pocket you must make sure that you don't have any other magnetic metal objects in the same pocket such as steel keys, penknives, etc.

The electronic component that makes the portability of this SKUFOD possible is an electromagnetic field sensor that will detect the E.M. effect of the UFO when in the area. Although this new model is not as sensitive as the compass needle type detector, I believe that you will receive sufficient warning of the UFOs presence. The advantages of this new detector outweigh this slight reduction of sensitivity.

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An electromagnetic field sensor type detector incorporating latching circuit and audio alarm. Housed in a high impact plastic case, Battery operated. Size 70 x 50 x 25 (mm) 2 7/8 x 2 x 1 (inches)

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When ordering state: Pocket portable model.

Obtainable from: Malcolm Jay, 102 Nelson Road, Chingford E4 9AS. England.

THE AMAZING AUTUMN SKIES. by Mark A Tyrrell,

24 Cavendish Road
CREWE
Cheshire.CW2 8SW.

Now that 1977 has been and gone, it is time for all of us to take a retrospective look at what, I'm sure you will agree, was an exceptional year for UFO activity. All over the United Kingdom people were seeing strange objects travelling through our skies. A few people even alleged to have encountered the occupants of such craft. In an unprecedented number for this fair island, it was a busy and exciting time for all UFO groups, including my own, 'Federation UFO Research', which is based at Crewe.

The group had had a steady stream of UFO reports coming in throughout the year, until the period from late August to late November. During these few months, Crewe and the surrounding countryside was subject to intense UFO activity. No doubt the majority of reports that came in had a mundane explanation, but

a residue remains for which no explanation has yet presented itself. Remember though, even a small proportion of genuine 'unknowns' represents a great mystery. I would now like to present to you the cases which FUFOR investigated during these hectic three months.

The 'flap' can be considered to have started on Wednesday, 24 August, with no less than three sightings on that date, including one by FUFOR members. At 11.30 a.m. a Mrs. Gerard and her mother were leaving her house in Willaston, a suburb of the ancient market town of Nantwich. Suddenly Mrs. Gerard saw a 'large oval-shaped' object which appeared to hover over some bungalows. When she brought her mother's attention to it, it accelerated out of sight in a few seconds. At 9.40 that evening a group of young boys in Westminster street, Crewe, were to see a 'circular disc' that changed colour from red to green and orange. It was seen to shoot up into the clouds, only to reappear five minutes later to the S.E. where it again finally disappeared into the clouds. The FUFOR members reported that they saw an object over a suburban area to the south of Crewe. The time being 11.27 p.m. The object was coloured which and was travelling in a N.E. direction. It seemed to get lower and then after three minutes suddenly grew in brightness before abruptly vanishing.

Two days later a Coppenhall woman, together with her husband and son, caught sight of a 'squarish-boxy' shape with a kind of tail attached to it. As they watched from their home to the north of Crewe, the sharply-defined object remained stationary for the five minutes it was observed by the family.

September came in with a bang! On the third, a Saturday, there were six known sightings of UFOs, all within the space of four hours. One of them involving FUFOR Chairman Stephen Cleaver, with several other witnesses present. At 9.20 p.m. a Mr. Locker, together with his eleven-year-old daughter espied what appeared to be a 'very bright star, silver-coloured with an outline of a cigar'. It was over Alsager, on the Cheshire/Staffordshire border, and was moving from South to North. After about one minute, the object negotiated a right-angle turn at high speed in the direction of Crewe, some four to five miles distant. At 9.35, a young teenage couple alleged to have seen four 'pinheads' of light changing formation over West Street, Crewe. At 9.50 p.m. Steven Cleaver, his girlfriend and two others had just left a house at the north end of town when they saw an object of undefinable shape, the apparent size of a halfpence, held at arm's length. Several times the object stopped and reversed on its own path whilst travelling to the N.E. Whilst Stephen heard nothing, the other three said they heard a buzzing noise from the UFO. Though it is interesting to note that at this time Stephen's ears were badly blocked and shortly after he had them syringed clear by his doctor. Upon arriving at a destination in Coppenhall, they were joined by two others and saw the object finally move off to the N.E. Two of these witnesses were to see a similar spectacle at 11.08 p.m. over the eastern part of Crewe.

In the rural community of Ravensmoor, some five miles to the S.W. of Crewe, a young married couple, just arrived home from their holidays, spotted a 'starlike object' travelling very low from the S.W. towards the N.W., the time being 10.30 p.m. About half an hour later, two ambulancemen were reported to have seen an object over the Leighton Hospital which moved off at high speed to the N.E. whilst changing colour from white to blue and finally red as it vanished from view. Bringing the events of 3rd September to a close, at midnight, no less, a young courting couple, on the outskirts of Sandbach were to witness an object hovering over a small lake. The strange spectacle did not have any definite shape and whilst the couple drove to a nearby house to gain corroboration of the experience, it moved off in a easterly direction. The male partner experienced a ringing in his ears during the strange event.

Five days later, still in the Sandbach area, a thirtyseven-year-old driver, together with his twelve-year-old son, were to see a 'round' object of a dull-white colour with an orange centre in the S.E. Sky. The time was 9.06 p.m. The UFO was alleged to have given off a 'very biggish noise' and was, according to the son, seen to spin and then depart.

By this time things were getting pretty hectic, not only for myself, but for the other members of FUFOR as case after case rolled in. Apart from investigations, being Group Secretary, I had the job of sending off legible reports to NUFON and articles to the local paper, which by the way were all published. There seemed to be no end to the reports that came to the group's attention.

On Friday 9th September, a group of people in the village of Willaston reported seeing a 'starlike' object to the South at 8.30 p.m., which underwent a series of zigzag manoeuvres before suddenly vanishing. About fifteen minutes later the same or similar object was seen to the N.E. that seemed to be descending whilst going away from the witnesses. Before eventually disappearing, a light beam shone from the rear of the object for a second and then died away. Next day, the 10th, again in the evening at 8.45 p.m. two youths were motoring through the village of Shavington and caught sight of a rectangular-shaped UFO which travelled at high speed before vanishing abruptly. An hour and a half later, a 'bright round object' was seen in the sky over Crewe Speedway Stadium. The craft changed direction and retraced its flightpath before disappearing from view.

Things then seemed to have died down for a few days until the occasion of Skywatch No.2 in the NUFON programme. I was only able to attend for the first hour and a half, unfortunately. At 11.44 p.m. two mysterious lights were seen to perform erratic movements over the Northern outskirts of Crewe. They were to perform like this for the next fifteen minutes and prompted FUFOR members to drive away from the Skywatch sight for a closer look. Alas they were unsuccessful.

The next day, Sunday the 18th September, brought forth a photographic case which involved FUFOR member David Moses. I can only say that I know David and have complete faith in his testimony. The event began at 10.45 p.m. David was asked by neighbours to go outside and have a look at something in the sky, again on the Northern outskirts of Crewe. To the N.W. was a round object which was seen to change colour from red to silver and then to green and then back again. The UFO then began to slowly pulsate. David, armed with his camera, then took a ten-second exposure of the object before it disappeared for three minutes. It then reappeared and was seen to depart in a N.W. direction. The photograph shows a bent-shaped object, this is due entirely to camera shake, because the object was described as being round. Some buildings in the photograph show the same effect.

The next case during this period allegedly occurred on Wednesday, 21st September, and was again a photographic case. FUFOR did not learn of it until five months later and I am still awaiting analysis of the negatives involved. It is said to have happened in the village of Hough, some four miles to the South of Crewe. The witness alleges to have seen two white lights 'travelling faster than an aircraft' at 10.30 p.m. which he promptly photographed. When developed, the photograph showed four such lights! As I have not yet concluded my investigation into this case, I would not like to comment here on the merits of the report.

LIGHTS IN THE SKY (AND ALL THAT)

No other reports were to reach FUFOR for the remainder of September. October was to supply the group with various reports of 'Lights in the Sky' and what-have-you, including something seen on 15th October during Skywatch No.3 in the NUFON Programme.

The first October sighting occurred on Monday the 3rd at 6.10 p.m. and concerned FUFOR member Arthur Gibbons and some of his neighbours in Broxton Drive, Crewe. Having been called outside, he saw a 'bright yellow' object in the sky to the East at about 20° elevation. It was the apparent size of two stars and after a few seconds faded away. The next evening, at 8.30 p.m. a driver for British Rail was travelling through the village of Balterley Heath, three miles S.E. of Crewe. Suddenly he spotted a ball of orange light hovering approximately six feet above the surface of a field. Upon stopping the vehicle he was driving, he saw the object suddenly accelerate away to the South. A

companion who was with him at the time FAILED TO SEE the object at all. The possibility of a landing prompted FUFOR to make an on-site investigation a few days later and although having first obtained permission to go on said field, the team were chased off the land by a suspicious farmer's wife with dire threats of what would happen if her husband was present! It was fortunate for FUFOR that he never showed up.

A yellow/orange light was seen over the Wimodsley area on Monday the 10th. October at 8.37 p.m. travelling in a N.E. direction. The next sighting day, if it can be called that, was the following Saturday, the 15th. The third Skywatch in the NUFON programme was taking place and at 11.00 p.m. myself, in the company of two others at the Skywatch site saw a hazy light travelling in a Westerly direction at about 15/20° elevation. It was in view for only a few seconds and we could not really say what it was. Although it was not one of the fireballs that seemed to be in relative abundance that night.

There was a gap of some ten days before the next report came in. This time from a woman in mid-thirties who preferred to remain anonymous. On Tuesday, 25th October, at 10.40 p.m. she alleged to have seen a 'large flashing light' moving fairly slowly from West to East at about 40° elevation. The object then appeared to go down behind some trees about one hundred yards distant and move to and fro between them. Apparently two other people had seen the object from separate locations. Unfortunately, these corroborative witnesses were never traced.

Halloween night provided two more reports of Lights in the Sky, one seen in the vicinity of Leighton at 8.10 p.m. which was the area of the September 3rd case of the two ambulancemen. A single witness saw a bright round object travelling quite fast in the N.W. until out of sight. The same witness reported seeing another UFO later that night at 11.30. An orange/white object was seen in the Winsford area between 8.00 and 9.15 p.m. which was said to have performed quite a variety of manoeuvres before disappearing. The theory that these may have been witches on broomsticks has been discounted.

The next sighting occurred very early in the morning of 1st November and concerns the reports of two women who were four and a half miles apart and who both saw a similar object within 5/10 minutes of each other. The events took place in the deeply rural area to the S.W. of Nantwich. The first occurrence happened at about 12.05 to 12.10 a.m. and involved a woman who was driving from the town of Whitchurch to her home in the village of Wirswall. As she was driving up a hill known as "Wirswall Bank" she saw, to her left, a cigar-shaped light travelling very fast in an Easterly direction. The object seemed to have a tail but the witness suggested that this might be an illusion due to the objects great speed. About 12.15 a.m. in the village of Wrenbury, some four and a half miles due N.E. of Wirswall another witness, again driving a car, saw a cigar-shaped 'white' object heading from S.W. to N.E. which was in view for about 10/20 seconds. The similarity of descriptions cannot be discounted.

Thursday, 3rd November, provided FUFOR with three more reports, the first happening at 12.30 a.m. the location Weston Hall Corner some two and a half miles S.E. of Crewe. Four people were travelling along the A52 when they suddenly espied a vivid bright light which lit up the immediate area and had a 'rainbow type colouring'. The object was seen to lose height in the direction of Nantwich. The next sighting was in daylight at 12.15 p.m. A Mr. Davies was at his mother's house in Westminster Street, Crewe, when upon looking out through a window saw a silver-cigar-shaped object in the sky. He drew his Mother's attention to the UFO and they saw it apparently change shape from a cigar to a glowing rod shape before it disappeared over the rooftops. This street, if you remember, was the scene of a sighting by some young boys on the 24th August. Finally, at midnight, an orange ball-shaped object, with a tail, was seen over Crewe in the N.E. sky. It stopped and then suddenly sped off into the distance.

Two corroborative sightings, that occurred on Monday 7th November both within an hour of each other in the same general area came to FUFOR's attention. At 4.00 p.m. a married couple were driving along Hungerford Road, Crewe, going out of town in an Easterly direction. They spotted a brilliant white object towards the East but their view was suddenly obscured by some trees. Upon regaining a view of the strange craft they could see it was not a dark elongated shape. It was in view for about ten minutes before slowly drifting out of sight. Later, at 4.55 p.m. a single male witness was driving in the same direction on the same road through the village of Haslington when he noticed a flash of light towards the East. At about Five Hundred feet he noticed a black cylindrical object with a small bluish light at either end on its underside. The man had served in the RAF and estimated the size of the object to be that similar of a large helicopter. An enquiry to Ringway Airport failed to shed any light on a possible explanation for this sighting.

An orange point of light was seen over Winsford at 12.13 a.m. by an amateur astronomer on the 8th November and was in view for four minutes. At 7.36 that evening a group of six people were in the grounds of a pub in the village of Sydney. They saw a bright object to the N.E. which seemed to move in a semi-circular motion whilst giving off a bleeping noise.

There now remain two more sightings for the period reviewed in this article. The first of which occurred in North Wales on the 16th November which could not be considered a 'local' case, although the witness works in Nantwich. The final sighting was on the 24th November and the location was on the Southerly side of Crewe. A pair of flashing pinpoints of light were seen travelling towards the N.W. which eventually disappeared on the horizon. A rather unspectacular end to an exciting four months UFO activity.

In summing up the period just dealt with, it becomes evident that a small group of FUFORs size (seven members) could not hope to follow up every 'line of enquiry' for a possible explanation. In the cases for which we did try to find an answer, we just drew blank and it was felt best to leave the cases open.

Despite this aspect, great experience was gained in dealing with witnesses and looking back, I can see errors that happened that just don't happen today. The four months proved really invaluable. FUFOR has matured greatly in its outlook and despite minimal funds has greatly improved in its ability as an investigation team.

Finally, in the eventuality that a 'flap' may occur in the reader's area, I can only hope you have as a rewarding time as that of my colleagues and myself.

THE 'END' BITS

Interesting misprint uncovered by Barry Norman in a recent BBC TV Film 79, programme, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind". Barry says, "I wonder what happened to the other two?".

"Absence of Evidence is not Evidence of Absence" - Trevor Whittaker - Radio Sheffield - August 18th, 1978.

"Whenever a child says 'I don't believe in fairies' there's a little fairy somewhere that drops right down dead" - J.M. Barrie - MUF08 December 1971. 4: 5

Sorry about the lack (total) of MAPIT sighting investigations! We've been so overwhelmed with reports that it's going to take a long time to complete the investigations; anyway, I promise to include at least six MAPIT investigations in issue No.32. DLR.

A POEM

THE FLAME

From the infinite cocoon of space,
From the boundless embrace of love,
From the patient understanding of time,
From the eternity of countless births,
Is born Life.
A spark,
A flickering glow;
On life's path embark,
And on its waters flow;
Never Dimming, stronger now,
A mission first to accomplish,
But how?
To gather strength and power,
To feed the flame of life,
From humble spark to mighty flame,
the very same.
Consuming knowledge, transmuted power,
To stand alone in this hour;
To light the darkenss,
And clearly see,
The goodness all around,
And wonders abound.
To supply warmth and comfort,
Health and vitality
A humble spark,
Yet it grew and grew
The flame that now is YOU.

John W.B.Barklam.